Retrenchment in the Electricity department.

* 444 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have decided to retrench 25,000 workers both skilled and unskilled from the Electricity department of six coastal districts in the Andhra area and if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" No; but 1,532 workers (1,384 N.M.R. and 148 workcharged workers) were retrenched during January and February 1953 from the Andhra Power System. This was necessitated by the quantum of funds available for extension schemes. The total of N.M.R. men left after retrenchment in February 1953 was 469. In March 1953, some urgent Community Project, etc., works were taken up and there was an increase in the N.M.R. staff as follows :—

First fortnight of March 1953—754.

Second fortnight of March 1953—845.

On completion of works the staff was again retrenched and the number now employed is 547.

Prevention of monkey menace to fruit and vegetable gardens in Cuddapah district.

* 445 Q.—SRI P. NARASIMHA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state what action has been taken by the Government to prevent the menace of monkeys and flying fox, etc., to the fruit and vegetable gardens in Cuddapah district since the reply to starred question No. 460 on 12th December 1952 saying that the matter is under examination?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" The question of eradicating monkey nuisance to protect food crops and fruit and vegetable gardens in this State has been engaging the attention of the Government for the last three or four years. In April 1951, the Government issued a Press Communiquè stating that the restrictions regarding export of monkeys to foreign countries were liberalized and persons interested in export of monkeys were put in contact with leading firms in Calcutta dealing in the export of wild animals. The question of protecting crops from monkey menace is being further examined by the Government."

Protected water-supply scheme for Gooty Panchayat.

* 447 Q.—SRI S. NARAYANAPPA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether any representation was received from the panchayat, Gooty, regarding the sanction of protected water-supply scheme: and if so, what action has been taken on the same?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Gooty Panchayat Board represented to Government that a water-supply scheme

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to the panchayat should be investigated. The panchayat board was informed that its water-supply scheme would be taken up in its turn in the priority list."

Holiday with wages for workers on Republic and Independence Days.

* 449 Q.—SRI K. GOVINDA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have declared as holidays with wages the Republic Day and the Independence Day for all the workers in the various industrial concerns in the State; and

(b) if so, whether they are granted in lieu of the original ten days given to labourers per year?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) The Government have declared these two days as holidays with wages to workers in establishments under their control and have also appealed to all employers to declare these two holidays with wages.

" (b) These holidays will not be in substitution of existing holidays."

Centre for E.S.L.C. Public Examination in Walluvanad taluk, Malabar district.

* 450 Q.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Higher Elementary School, Alanallur, and Higher Elementary School, Thachampara, Walluvanad taluk, Malabar district, are clubbed together for the purpose of E.S.L.C. Public Examination and the examination is to be held at a place different from both?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes. Both the schools have been clubbed together for the E.S.L.C. Public Examination. The candidates will have to appear for the examination at the centre in the K.T.M. High School, Mannarghat, Walluvanad taluk."

Acquisition of house-sites for Harijans in West Godavari district.

* 451 Q.—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of cases of acquisition of house-sites for Harijans and Harijan Christians pending on 31st December 1952 on talukwar basis, West Godavari district, in which (i) investigations are not yet over; (ii) investigations are over; (iii) sanction orders were passed; (iv) advance moneys were collected and (v) awards were passed; and

(b) the amount of advance moneys collected in (a) (iv) in West Godavari district from 1946 to 31st December 1952?